

THE GENUS *HODOPHYLAX* JAMES, WITH A DESCRIPTION  
OF *BASINGERI*, NEW SPECIES

(*Diptera, Asilidæ*)\*

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The genus *Hodophylax* was proposed by James (1933) to include the single species *aridus*. James (1934) revised his diagnosis of the genus after having examined additional material. A second species of *Hodophylax* is described in this paper, and the geographical distribution of *aridus* is considerably extended.

*Hodophylax* is closely related to *Omninablautus* Pritchard and *Ablautus* Loew. *Omninablautus* and *Ablautus* differ from *Hodophylax* in being slender, having the mystax very dense and covering the entire face, and by having long, strong dorsocentrals along the entire mesonotum and other bristles anteriorly. After James recognized the tibial spur to be characteristic of *Hodophylax*, he considered the relationships to be more with *Parataractius* Cole; the writer feels that the relation here is more distant and that the difference in antennal development is of more significance than the similarity in the reduction of the pulvilli and the presence of the tibial spur.

The writer has a single specimen of an elongate species, representing an undescribed genus from Phoenix, Arizona (August), which has the pulvilli about one-fourth as long as the claws. This may represent an intermediate between *Hodophylax* and certain pulvillate genera, or, since the third antennal segments of this specimen are lacking, may be more closely related to *Lestomyia* Williston.

## HODOPHYLAX ARIDUS James

1933. *Hodophylax aridus* James, American Museum Novitates, no. 596:1-2.

1934. *Hodophylax aridus* James, Pan-Pacific Entomologist, 10:83-84.

James recorded the species from Colorado (August, September) and Kansas (August). The writer has additional material from Artesia, New Mexico, August 30, 1934 (A. E. Pritchard), and Wilcox, Arizona, August 11, 1930 (T. F. Winburn and

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R. H. Painter). The tibiae externally and the tarsi for the most part are usually reddish like the femora.

*Hodophylax basingeri* Pritchard, new species

Body black; legs black except reddish femora; abdomen with caudo-lateral pollinose rectangles on segments two, three, and four. Length, 9 mm.

Female. Head silvery white pollinose, with hairs and bristles all white. Mystax on lower half of face, moderately dense on lower third. Ocellar tubercle with numerous hairs and bristles which do not get longer than the third antennal segment. Antennae with proximal two segments and base of third reddish, black beyond this. First antennal segment slightly shorter than second; second only with a strong bristle below; style about one-half as long as third antennal segment, its proximal division relatively short. Thoracic pleura densely white pollinose with brownish tinges, but with a wide, shining black stripe, devoid of pollen, from the wing base to the front coxa; coxae also shining black; propleura with dense, erect, long hairs. Mesonotum rather thinly whitish pollinose, with brown, geminate middorsal stripe, and brownish lateral stripes; rather thinly clothed with fine, white hairs which are directed posteriorly but not appressed, and long, white, lateral bristles; dorso-centrals, except posterior pair, hardly differentiated. Scutellum brownish pollinose, with a patch of about twelve marginal white bristles and hairs on either side. Abdomen above largely shining black, the posterior third of tergites I to IV each with a whitish pollinose stripe which is interrupted on median two-thirds of I, median third of II and III, and median half of IV; laterally whitish pollinose on I to IV and part of V, although suffused with brown on proximal half of II, III, and IV. Legs shining black, the femora, however, reddish except at tip; clothed with white bristles and recumbent white hairs, the anterior tibial spur and bristles below tarsi all black; claws long, black; empodial bristle yellowish, less than one-fourth the length of the claws. Wings hyaline; veins yellowish; all marginal cells open.

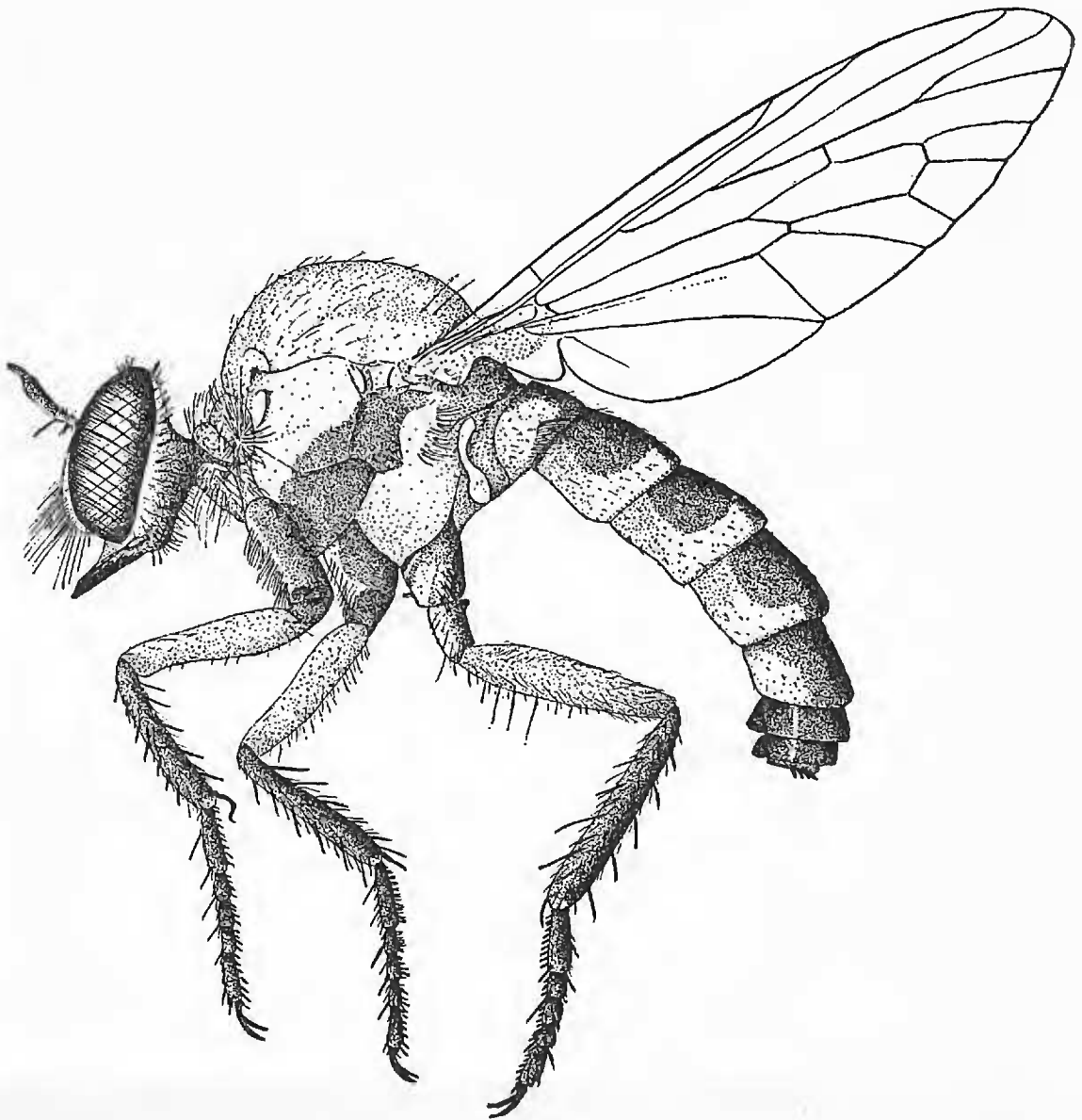
Holotype, female, Quail Spring, San Bernardino County, California, October 5, 1934 (A. J. Basinger), in the collection of Mr. A. J. Basinger for whom the species is named.

*Basingeri* differs from *aridus* in having the antennal style about one-half as long as third antennal segment (about one-fourth length of third antennal segment in *aridus*); mystax over lower half of face (oral in *aridus*); propleura with densely erect, long hairs (with several bristles and marginal,

recumbent hairs in *aridus*); mesonotal bristles much longer; mesonotal hairs fine and rather erect (heavy and appressed in *aridus*); dorsocentrals fine, little differentiated (short bristles in *aridus*); scutellar margin with a patch of bristles and hairs on either side (with two pairs of bristles in *aridus*); abdomen bare of pollen medially in the female (with anterior mesal spots in *aridus*); and the caudo-lateral spots less extensive.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

1933. James, Maurice T. New Asilidæ from Colorado. American Museum Novitates, No. 596:1-2.  
1934. James, Maurice T. Taxonomic Notes on Some Colorado Asilidæ. Pan-Pacific Entomologist, 10:83-84.



*Hodophylax basingeri*, holotype female.